

MEMO

TO: Energy and Environment Committee (EEC)
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DATE: July 31, 2003
SUBJECT: 2003 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) Emission Budgets

Recommended Action: Information Only.

Summary:

SCAG's 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) must demonstrate conformity with the 2003 South Coast Air Quality Management Plan (SCAQMP) and the resulting State Implementation Plan (SIP). Staff is currently working with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to ensure that the motor vehicle emission budgets established for ozone (volatile organic compounds (VOCs)) in the Proposed Modifications to the Draft 2003 SCAQMP are sufficient to demonstrate conformity for the region. Adoption of the 2003 SCAQMP by the SCAQMD Board is scheduled for August 1, 2003.

Background:

SCAG's 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) must demonstrate conformity with the 2003 SCAQMP and the SIP. Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) requires that transportation plans, programs and projects not create new violations of an air quality standard, nor increase the severity of an existing standard, nor delay the attainment of the standards. Transportation conformity is a way to ensure that Federal funding and approval are given only to those transportation activities that are consistent with air quality goals.

Motor vehicle emissions budgets are developed based on the emissions inventory and reflect effects of control measures included in the SCAQMP and SIP. Motor vehicle emissions are estimated based upon the number of vehicles in the region, their age, the rate of fleet turnover to new and cleaner vehicles, seasonal temperatures in the region, vehicle miles traveled (VMT), population growth and other factors. These emission budgets act as a "ceiling" for future on-road mobile source emissions. Exceedances of an emissions budget indicate an inconsistency with the SCAQMP and SIP and could jeopardize the flow of federal funds for transportation projects in the region.

SCAG staff is currently conducting analysis to ensure that the motor vehicle emission budgets for Ozone (VOC) that are being generated as part of the Proposed Modifications to the Draft 2003 SCAQMP, will be sufficient for the 2004 RTP to demonstrate conformity for the Ozone attainment date of 2010. SCAG staff is engaged in interagency consultation on this issue.